

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Contact: Rick Parham
(404) 631-1829

GA STUDENTS' WORK ZONE SAFETY POSTERS HONORED

Atlanta -- "Life Behind the Cones and Barrels — How Roadway Workers Keep America Moving" is the theme of a student-oriented effort to promote safety in Georgia's highway work zones.

The Georgia Department of Transportation joins with other state DOTs this week in observing Work Zone Safety Awareness. Georgia DOT is participating with the American Transportation Safety Solutions Association and the ATSSA Foundation in rewarding Georgia elementary school students who have won a poster contest highlighting the challenges of work zones.

Students from Meriwether, Elbert and Fulton counties will be honored at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 26, in the south wing of the State Capitol in a 30-minute ceremony highlighted by remarks from law enforcement officers who patrol the state's roadways. The poster contest helps educate children by raising their awareness regarding the dangers of work zones. These educated children become advocates of work zone safety to their family and friends. "Perhaps if children learn at a young age the dangers that are involved in roadwork projects, the number of fatalities will drop in the years to come," says Jeannie Powell of the Georgia Chapter of ATSSA.

The poster contest gives students in K-6th grade the opportunity to be artistic and draw their impressions of roadway work and workers. This contest encourages students to recognize the reasons roadway work is undertaken, the types of jobs performed by roadway workers, community responsibilities and other roles performed by the men and women who have some of the most dangerous jobs in America.

The non-profit American Transportation Safety Solutions Association (ATSSA) Foundation sponsors scholarships that are awarded to children of workers killed or permanently disabled in work zone accidents, as well as parents with custody or legal guardianship of surviving children. The scholarship program gives these often forgotten victims an opportunity to continue to meet their educational goals. ATSSA is accepting applications through February 15, 2013. For more information, contact Jeannie Powell at 706-553-9500 or Rick Parham, Georgia DOT Office of Communications, 404 631-1829 (or 770 561-1508 – cell).